

Message Text

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05182 241203Z

20

ACTION SS-30

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P R 241122Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5517

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T JIDDA 5182

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

DEPT PASS CAIRO

KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, XF, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI VIEWS ON U.S. "THREATS" AGAINST ARABS

1. OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, TOLD ME NOBEMBER 22 THAT SAUDIS WERE DISTURBED
SECRET

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BY THE "CONCERTED" U.S. CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARABS AND
THE DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF THE ARAB POSITION. HE
LISTED THE STATEMENT BY THE EIGHT BOSTON ECONOMISTS,
THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSECRETARY CASEY THAT A BOYCOTT

WAS A TWO-EDGED SWORD AND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT WE WOULD RELUCTANTLY HAVE TO CONSIDER COUNTER-MEASURES IF THE BOYCOTT CONTINUED.

2. SAQQAF SAID THAT NO ONE HAD MENTIONED, AND NO ONE IN THE UNITED STATES SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ARAB GOALS WERE VERY LIMITED, THAT THEY WERE ASKING ONLY THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM THE ARAB LANDS IT CONQUERED IN 1967--NOT THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL--AND THAT OIL PRODUCTION WOULD BE RESUMED FULLY AS SOON AS THAT IS DONE. IN FACT, AS HE HAD INDICATED TO ME AND TO THE SECRETARY, SAUDI ARABIA COULD START LIFTING THE BOYCOTT AND INCREASING PRODUCTION AS SOON AS THERE WAS SOME REAL MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE.

3. I SAID THAT IT WAS SCARCELY UNUSUAL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CONSIDER MEASURE TO PROTECT ITSELF. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD INDICATED UNEQUIVOCALLY BEFORE THE OCTOBER WAR THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS VITAL TO THE WORLD; THAT HE INTENDED TO DEVOTE HIS FULL ENERGIES TO IT AND THAT HE KNEW THERE COULD BE NO PEACE ON THE BASIS OF THE STATUS QUO. A BOYCOTT AND ACCOMPANYING HARDSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT MAKE THE SECRETARY'S WORK ANY EASIER. I TOLD HIM NOT TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE EIGHT ECONOMISTS' STATEMENTS--IT WAS CHURLISH AND WOOLEY AND WITHOUT MUCH SUBSTANCE. UNDERSECRETARY CASEY'S REMARKS WHICH OFFENDED THEM WAS A TRUISM--AND I HOPED THE SAUDIS WERE NOT QUESTIONING ITS VALIDITY. BUT IT WAS HIS ANALYSIS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS THAT BOTHERED ME MOST.

4. I SAID THAT FRANKLY WHEN I FIRST READ THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, I REALIZED THAT THE ARABS WOULD SINGLE OUT THAT ONE SHORT STATEMENT, CONCENTRATE ON IT AND FORGET THE REST OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. WE THEN WENT OVER THE WHOLE DOCUMENT AND I POINTED OUT ALL THE POINTS THE ARABS SHOULD CONSIDER HIGHLY FAVORABLE (ESPECIALLY THE SECRET

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STATEMENT ON THE TIMING OF LIFTING THE BOYCOTT; THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL AND THE AID PACKAGE FOR ISRAEL).

5. I ALSO SAID THAT AMERICANS AND OTHERS SHOULD BE EXCUSED FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING THE "TRUE" ARAB POSITION; THE ARABS' INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN WOEFULLY INADEQUATE; AND THE ONLY THINGS MOST AMERICANS KNEW ABOUT THE BOYCOTT WERE THAT THE KING SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN PRESENT POLICY UNTIL THE PRE-1967 WAR BORDERS WERE RE-ESTABLISHED, AND OIL MINISTER YAMANI'S INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS IN COPENHAGEN ON CUTTING BACK PRODUCTION BY 80 PERCENT AND SETTING OIL FIELDS ON FIRE, THUS BRINGING ABOUT A WORLD ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.

6. SAQQAF SEEMED IMPRESEED WHEN HE WENT OVER THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS BUT SAID THAT FOR THE ARABS TO LIFT OR MODIFY THE BOYCOTT NOW WHOULD BE TO APPEAR TO BE YIELDING TO PRESSURE; ZIONIST FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, WOULD CROW THAT THEY HAD WON A VICTORY; THE PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE RELAXED AND THE PEACE TALKS WOULD COLLAPSE.

7. I SAID THAT THIS NEED NOT BE THE CASE AT ALL. THE ARABS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEIR STRENGTH. THEY HAVE NUMEROUS STATEMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE THEY CAN QUOTE TO JUSTIFY THE LIFTING OR THE EASING OF THEIR PETROLEUM POLICY, AT LEAST WHEN THE PEACE TALKS START AND IT IS TO THEIR INTEREST TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARY'S HAND AND NOT WEAKEN IT PARTICULARLY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
AKINS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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To: STATE INFO ABU DHABI
ALGIERS
AMMAN
BEIRUT
BONN
DHAHRAN
KHARTOUM

KUWAIT
MOSCOW
MANAMA
PARIS
RABAT
SANAA
TEHRAN
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